

November 17, 2013
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
1 Timothy 6:17-19

“The Rich”

- I. The Prologue (1:1-20)
- II. The Body (2:1-6:19)
 - A. Paul’s Instruction concerning Conduct in the Church (2:1-3:16)
 - B. Paul’s Instruction to Timothy concerning His Personal Ministry (4:1-6:19)
 - 1. Timothy’s Attention to Himself and His Teaching (4:1-16)
 - 2. Timothy’s Relationships with Groups in the Church (5:1-25)
 - 3. Paul’s Final Instruction to Timothy (6:1-19)
 - a. Timothy’s Instruction to Slaves (6:1-2)
 - b. Timothy’s Awareness of False Teachers (6:3-10)
 - c. Timothy’s Proper Pursuits (6:11-16)
 - d. Timothy’s Instructions to the Rich (6:17-19)**

1) Dangers

2) Duties

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Paul talks a lot about money in 1 Timothy (3:3, 8; 5:3-10, 17-18; 6:5-10). What are some principles you learned from those passages?
2. Does the Bible say that money is sinful? Does it teach that having money is sinful? Why do you think so many Christians speak so harshly and negatively about people who have lots of money?
3. Randy Alcorn said, “It doesn’t take much to leave an **inheritance** (just accumulate and die), but it does take a great deal to leave a **godly heritage!**” What is the difference between the two? How can the way we handle money (wealth / possessions) impact the godly heritage that we leave?
4. What are the two major dangers that Paul points out in 1 Timothy 6:17? What are some examples of how those things could happen in our lives? Can you think of any biblical examples?
5. What solutions does Paul give to the dangers in v. 17? How do we fix our hope on God? How does this impact our ability to enjoy what we have? What happens if we don’t do this?
6. What is the Pastor’s duty in 6:17-19? Why would pastors be fearful of doing this?
7. Read Romans 12:6-8. Think of people with different spiritual gifts in the body of Christ. Would you have a problem walking up to a person who has a gift of serving and encourage / challenge them to get involved serving in a specific ministry? What about challenging a person with a gift of teaching to teach? What about challenging a person with leadership gifts to start leading? Is it different when it comes to people with lots of money? Do you feel free to challenge them to give generously? If not, why not?
8. Stats: During the Great Depression the average American gave 3.2% of their gross income to charitable causes (any and all charitable causes, not just their church). Now the average American “Christian” gives 2.5% of their income to charitable causes. People gave a greater percentage during the Great Depression than they do now. What do you think has contributed to this? How does this match with what Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:17-19? What could / should be done about this?
9. What are the duties of those who are rich in 6:18? What are the benefits of living that way (v. 19)?
10. Read Luke 3:7-14. John the Baptist called people to bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance. What examples did he give of what genuine repentance looks like? How many of them had to do with money / possessions? What is the point? (See Mt. 6:19-21; Lk. 12:13-21, 33-34) What might John the Baptist say to Americans who want to demonstrate true repentance and faith in Jesus?
11. Randy Alcorn made four profound statements about wealth / money. What is your reaction to each?
 - a. God does not prosper you to raise your standard of living but to raise your standard of giving!
 - b. For those who say they cannot tithe. “If you were to lose 10% of your income would you die?”
 - c. The greatest deterrent to giving is the illusion that earth is our home.
 - d. You can’t take it with you but you can send it on ahead.
12. Stats: The U.S. has 4.5% of the world’s population but over 50% of the world’s wealth. Of all the worldwide wealth that is in the hands of Christians, about 80% is in the hands of American Christians. What would Paul say to American Pastors? What would Paul say to American Christians? What steps of obedience will we begin to take this week?